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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GERMAN SWEETNESS AND LIGHT

SIR,—In the February issue of the NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, Mr. Charles Johnston brands the ill-mannered and expansionist bullying of the German *welt-macht*. In his opinion, it was the Kaiser's ante-bellum policy to oust France from Morocco, and to emulate in China the Hunnish exploits of Attila. In a similar strain, Mr. Poultney Bigelow, American author and traveler in the Far East, quite recently stated that "after thirty years of Prussianizing, the colonial natives of Kiau Chau detest the name of their conquerors." Since many Americans who are ignorant of the real facts regarding German colonialism in China may have been led to believe in its alleged frightfulness, will you permit me to epitomize those facts?

The Lord-Lieutenant of Kiau Chau resided in Tsing Tau, where the German Government spent at least two and a half million dollars a year in order to improve and beautify that matchless "pearl of the Orient." Such lavish generosity without adequate returns seemed utter folly to the Berlin jingoes, and the boisterous Reventlow party urged the Reichstag more than once to abandon altruism and soppy sentiment for a less cultural and more utilitarian policy, in a word, to pursue British colonial methods.

Not even "la belle France" or fastidious Germany can boast of a model city like Tsing Tau. And the yellow race, far from detesting Teutonic efficiency, gratefully recognizes and zealously endeavors to emulate the unexampled success of the Kaiser's colonial system.

German science has converted the barren rocks and treeless heights of Kiau Chau into fragrant flower gardens and delightful parks. The sanitary arrangements in the populous town are simply ideal. Fine long streets have been laid out rectangularly by the thorough-going Germans, the macadamized sidewalks being bright with electric lights, and the handsome houses being furnished with shower bath and telephone. Electric cars run through the main thoroughfares, splendid automobile tracks traverse both suburb and the more remote neighborhood, and the superb race course of Tsing Tau is deservedly popular. At the height of the gay season, during Sports Week, the smart set of Farther Asia congregates at the fashionable China resort even as European society crowds to "dear dirty Dublin" in Horse Show Week. And just as American wealth enriches the salubrious Riviera, and the Russian aristocracy is partial to picturesque Baden-Baden, so the viceroy millionaires of the former Celestial Empire and the highest mandarins of the new Republic have pur-

chased magnificent villas in lovely Tsing Tau, that unsurpassed German creation.

There are elegant shops and stores such as the globe-trotter will look for in vain even in wealthy Tokio and that Eastern melting-pot, polyglot Singapore. Tsing Tau has up-to-date restaurants and commodious hotels fitted up with every imaginable comfort and luxury. The "Prussian" régime has established richly stocked museums and exquisite picture galleries where competent scholars used to give instructive lectures on the various arts and sciences before appreciative audiences both native and Occidental. Modern dramas and classical plays were well staged and enacted in spacious theatres. Lighter attractions in the form of vaudeville shows and moving pictures were amply provided for the pleasure-seeking crowds. Musical entertainments were certainly first-class. The far-famed "Tsing Tau Orchestra" which periodically delighted the music-lovers of Peking, Tientsin and Shanghai, and which now tours the United States, gave regular municipal concerts at Tsing Tau as you could not hear them better in Dresden or at our Carnegie Hall.

The fine University of German Tsing Tau, where colonial life and culture dovetailed perfectly, has long outstripped the inferior rival institutions of British Hongkong. The Chinese language is the dignified vehicle of academic instruction in such vital topics as political and economic science, sociology and ethics, history and literature. The affiliated colleges could not be built fast enough to receive the ever increasing numbers of Chinese students who flocked to Tsing Tau to receive a thorough "German education."

But Mr. Charles Johnston seems to think that the "Huns" exploited China where the very name of Germany is loathed, if we may believe the flimsy author of the worthless *Prussian Memories*, Mr. Poultney Bigelow. To an impartial historian such as Professor William Shepherd of Columbia University, it appears to be England's rather than Germany's imperial mission to subdue the earth, and make every race contribute to the vainglory of Empire. In her heart of hearts Germany is democratic, averse to conquest and *welt-macht* or universal power. I hope Mr. Johnston will pardon my contradicting him. As the old *furor Teutonicus* terrorized degenerate Rome, so the new Berserker rage begins to unnerve decadent Britain. Mr. Bigelow is haunted by sinister visions of a Teutonic descent on these liberty-loving shores. That "purported American," as Representative Britten of Illinois designates Mr. Bigelow, has recently returned from Toronto, where he was pleased to tell the members of the Canadian Club that if Great Britain "lost hold" upon this country, German gunboats would sail up the Hudson, and the United States would come "crawling and whining" to Canada for protection. Is Mr. Bigelow an honest citizen standing by the Declaration of Independence? He behaves as if he were in the pay of the British Government, and secretly collaborated with Sir Gilbert Parker.

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[In the light of recent revelations concerning Germany's benevolent intentions toward the United States, we feel that any answer from Mr.

Johnston, Mr. Bigelow, or ourselves to the above communication would be superfluous. Herr Horowitz's elaborate surprise at Mr. Bigelow's distrust of Germany would be amusing, if this were the time to be amused at any further revelations of the malignant stupidities of the German mind.—EDITOR.]

FORGOTTEN, MISREAD, OR MISUNDERSTOOD

SIR,—To my letter on the "Problems of a Peace League" published in your March number, you attach the following comment:

Whatever objection may reasonably be urged against the projected World League for Peace, the objection that it is "the dream of an idealist," is not, as our correspondent seems to think, a crushing one. Every great liberalizing movement that has in the past lifted humanity a little higher above the brutes, has had its origin in "the dream of an idealist." Lincoln dreamed an idealist's dream. Those who insisted that the abolition of slavery was a fantastic impossibility were "practical men." And what nation today is, *par excellence*, the nation of "efficiency," of practical men? We leave the inevitable answer, with its implications, to be brooded upon by our valued correspondent.

I thought I had been duly considerate of an opposite opinion in the use of the phrase which you quote. The full sentence is as follows:

"The establishment of a World Court seems to me like the dream of an idealist; but, being open to a contrary conviction, I have written this with the purpose of bringing out the views of others, not as to its desirability, but its possibility."

Is there anything dogmatic in that? or anything to justify the remark that I thought it was "crushing" to the World Court proposition? It was intended to be quite the contrary; an appeal for light from an open mind; an admission of possible error, and a call for discussion.

But since you have confined the editorial comment to that phrase, without combating my propositions or argument, perhaps you will allow me to say a word in reply.

As to your statement that "every great movement that has in the past lifted humanity a little higher above the brutes has had its origin in the dream of an idealist," I cannot comment, because I do not know what movements you have in mind, except one—the anti-slavery movement, which you give as an illustration.

Of that you name Lincoln as the moving factor, and class him as an idealist. If that be true, I must have forgotten, misread, or misunderstood history. My recollection is that so far from being an idealist, he sought by every practical plan to pacify the South without resorting to force. In the beginning of his career, he was not for the abolition, but against the extension, of slavery. In the celebrated "house-divided-against-itself" speech, his argument was that slavery, if restricted, would ultimately kill itself; and, in his first inaugural address, he disclaimed any intention of freeing the slaves. It was primarily to save the Union (not the slave) that he finally resorted to force, of which emancipation was a part, and justified as a war measure.

Of course everything within the scope of physical law can be accomplished by force.